

***Office of Subsistence Management
Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program
Notice of Availability of Federal Assistance
2007 Request for Proposals***

Overview Information

The Department of the Interior, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Subsistence Management, administers the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program (Catalog of Federal and Domestic Assistance Number 15.636 Alaska Subsistence Management). The Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program (FRMP) is seeking technically sound projects that gather information to manage and conserve subsistence fishery resources in Alaska. The program also develops fisheries management expertise within Alaska Native and rural organizations and promotes collaboration among Federal, State, Alaska Native and local organizations. The Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program encompasses awards made through both Federal assistance and procurement instruments (contracts). This Request for Proposals is the single designated annual competition through which multiple awards will be made. A twin posting of this announcement of Request for Proposals # 701816R009 will be posted on <http://www.fedbizopps.gov> and <http://www.grants.gov>.

As in past years, studies that gather, analyze, and report information needs for effective subsistence fisheries management on Federal public lands in Alaska (National Wildlife Refuges, National Forests, National Parks and Preserves, National Conservation Areas, National Wild and Scenic River Systems, National Petroleum Reserves, and National Recreation Areas) will be considered.

Proposals are to be submitted to the Office of Subsistence Management by **January 17, 2006, 4:30 PM Alaska time.**

I. Funding Opportunity Description

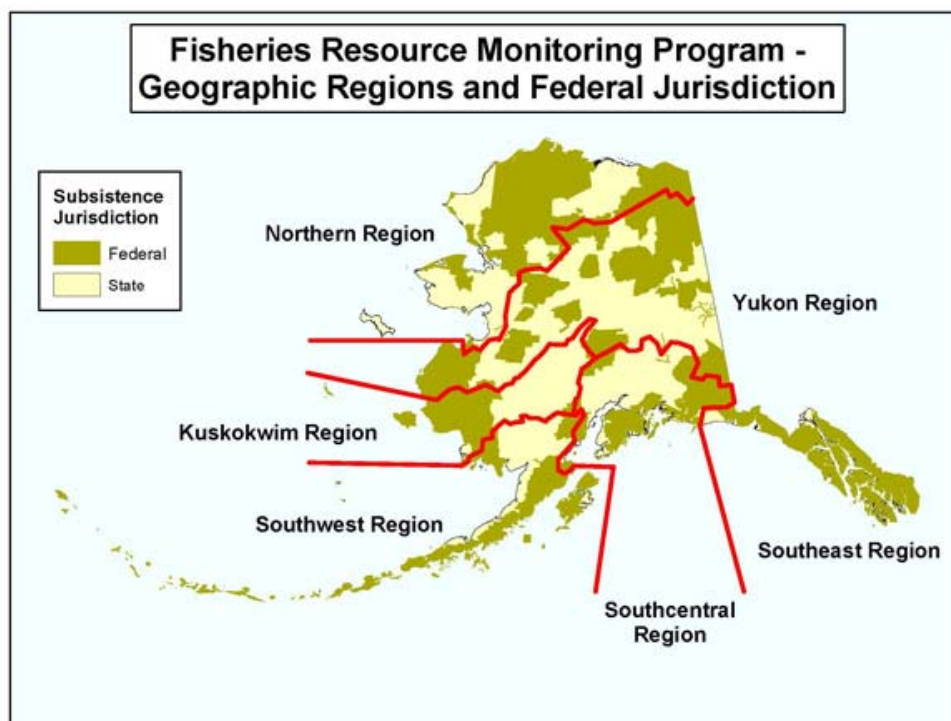
The Federal Subsistence Board (Board) has established guidelines for proposals to successfully compete for funding. Activities that are outside the scope of the Monitoring Program and will not be considered include: habitat protection, mitigation, restoration, and enhancement; hatchery propagation, restoration, enhancement and supplementation; and contaminant assessment, evaluation, and monitoring. These important activities are most appropriately addressed by the responsible land management or regulatory agency, not the Monitoring Program. In addition, projects where the primary objective is capacity building (e.g., science camps, technician training, intern programs), are not eligible for funding under the Monitoring Program. However, monitoring projects with capacity building as a secondary objective are encouraged, and partnerships/capacity building is one of four ranking criteria used to evaluate proposals.

The Office of Subsistence Management invites the submission of proposals for fisheries investigation studies to be initiated under the 2007 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program. The Monitoring Program provides \$6.25 million annually in funding to support research and monitoring of Federal subsistence fisheries in Alaska. The funding commitments to multiple

year projects influence the amount of funding available each year for new projects. In 2007, approximately \$4.3 million will be available to fund new monitoring and research projects needed to sustain Federal subsistence fisheries for rural Alaskans on Federal lands; remaining funding is obligated to existing projects.

Although all proposals addressing Federal subsistence fisheries will be considered, the Office of Subsistence Management is targeting the 2007 Request for Proposals towards priority information needs identified either by strategic planning efforts or by expert opinion from Regional Advisory Councils, the Technical Review Committee, and the Fisheries Information Services Division staff. A list of priority information needs is included in the application package (see IV. Application and Submission below).

Geographic Regions: Proposals should address one of six geographic regions. If the issue of concern covers more than one region, the proposal should be classified as inter-regional.



Data Types: Two categories of information will be considered: 1) harvest monitoring and traditional ecological knowledge (HM-TEK), and 2) stock status and trends (SST). Harvest monitoring studies can provide information on numbers and species of fish harvested, locations of harvests, and gear types used. Methods used to gather information on subsistence harvest patterns include harvest calendars, mail-in questionnaires, household interviews, subsistence permit reports and telephone interviews. Traditional ecological knowledge studies collect and analyze information from knowledgeable people on a variety of topics, including: fish ecology, species identification, local names, life history, taxonomy, seasonal movements, harvests, spawning and rearing areas, population trends, environmental observations, and traditional management systems. Methods used to document traditional

ecological knowledge can include ethnographic fieldwork, key informant interviews with local experts, place name mapping, and open ended surveys.

Stock status and trends studies can provide information on abundance and run timing; age, size and sex composition; migration, mixing, and geographic distribution; survival of juveniles or adults; stock production; genetic stock identification and mixed stock analyses. Methods used to gather information on stock status and trends include aerial and ground surveys, test fishing, towers, weirs, sonar, video, genetics, mark-recapture, and telemetry.

II. Award Information

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will award multiple cooperative agreements and contracts for selected fisheries investigation projects. Continuation of funding for year two and three of multiple-year projects is contingent upon attainment of the study objectives. Total award funding is estimated at \$4.3 million for new projects in 2007.

III. Eligibility

Individuals and organizations that have the necessary technical and administrative abilities and resources to ensure successful completion of studies may submit proposals. Individuals submitting proposals may be independent investigators or affiliated with Alaska Native organizations, government agencies, academic institutions, regional fishery organizations, or consulting firms.

Applicants and organizations who are included on the Federal Government's Excluded Parties Listing Systems (EPLS) cannot submit proposals. Inclusion on the EPLS listing system indicates debarment from doing business under Federal procurement and/or non-procurement (cooperative agreement) programs. See <http://www.epls.gov> for the most current listing of debarred organizations.

There is no requirement for cost sharing, matching, or cost participation. However, applicants are encouraged to document matching contributions. Proposals with substantial cost sharing will be ranked higher than similar proposals with no identified cost sharing.

IV. Application and Submission

Address to Request Application Materials

Applicants may request an application package from Kathy Orzechowski, Fisheries Information Services Division, Office of Subsistence Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 3601 C Street, Suite 1030, Anchorage, Alaska 99503, phone: 907-786-3645, fax: 907-786-3612, email: fisheries_resource_monitoring@fws.gov. In addition, the application package may also be accessed on the web at <http://alaska.fws.gov/asm/fisindex.cfm>, under "Applying for Funding."

Content and Form of Application

Application package: The application package contains eight documents to assist in preparation of proposals.

1. **Guidelines for Preparing Proposals** describes the schedule for the 2007 Monitoring Plan, and the proposal format requirements.
2. **Priority Information Needs** provides a list of priority information needs developed for each region. Although all proposals addressing Federal subsistence fisheries will be considered, investigators are encouraged to address one or more of these priority information needs.
3. **Guidelines for Establishing Project Objectives for Biological Fisheries Investigations** provides guidance on developing scientifically and statistical sound proposals and investigation plans for biological fisheries investigations. Investigators should be aware that the objectives provide the basis for development of funding documents and for evaluation of project performance, so careful attention to the specifics of the guidelines is recommended.
4. **Guidelines for Establishing Project Objectives for Social Science Investigations** provides guidance on developing scientifically and statistical sound proposals and investigation plans for social science investigations. Investigators should be aware that the objectives provide the basis for development of funding documents and for evaluation of project performance, so careful attention to the specifics of the guidelines is recommended.
5. **Principles for the Conduct of Research in the Arctic** provides the basis for promoting mutual respect and communication between scientists and residents of rural communities. Investigators should adhere to these principles in developing and conducting studies.
6. **Guidelines for Use of Fish in Field Research** provides guidance for the ethical and scientific conduct of field investigations. This policy by the American Fisheries Society documents the appropriate use of fish in field research, including collecting, restraint and handling, marking, and disposition of fish following studies.
7. **Capacity Building in the Fisheries Resources Monitoring Program** provides a foundation for understanding capacity building within the context of the Monitoring Program and is an aid for investigators to develop a capacity building strategy into proposals and investigation plans.
8. **Traditional Ecological Knowledge References** provides over 25 useful references on traditional ecological knowledge research.

Registration in the Central Contractor Registry: All applicants for this program are required to **enroll or take the required steps to annually maintain their active status registration** in the Central Contractor Registration (CCR) on-line at <http://www.ccr.gov>.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service does not maintain the CCR website and questions which arise in completing your on-line registration should be directed to the CCR Assistance Center at (888) 227-2423, or (269) 961-5757 internationally.

In your study proposal application package to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, please provide us with your organization's Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS Number) and a screen print showing either pending or active registrant status in CCR for your specific DUNS number. **Non-registration by applicants or sub-applicants will result in rejection of your application package.** You may provide a "screen print" of your registration in CCR as a part of your application package.

Submission Dates and Times

January 17, 2006	Deadline for Proposals, 4:30 PM Alaska time
March 30, 2006	Request for Investigation Plans
May 15, 2006	Deadline for Investigation Plans

Intergovernmental Review

This funding opportunity is not subject to Executive Order (EO) 12372.

Funding Restrictions

Awards will not allow reimbursement of pre-award expenses.

Other Submission Requirements

Electronic submission in Microsoft Word is required and must be received by January 17, 2006, 4:30 PM Alaska time. Electronic submissions should be emailed to fisheries_resource_monitoring@fws.gov.

V. Application Review

Criteria

Each proposal is evaluated using the following four criteria:

1. **Strategic Priorities**- Studies must be responsive to identified issues and information needs. All projects must fully meet the first criteria, Federal nexus, to be eligible for funding under the Monitoring Program.
 - Federal nexus – Study must have a direct association to a subsistence fishery. Either the subsistence fishery or stocks in question must occur in waters within or adjacent to Federal public lands (National Wildlife Refuges, National Forests, National Parks and Preserves, National Conservation Areas, National Wild and Scenic River Systems, National Petroleum Reserves, and National Recreation Areas).
 - Conservation Mandate – Risk to the conservation of species and populations that support subsistence fisheries and risk to public lands purposes.
 - Allocation Priority – Risk of failure to provide a priority to subsistence uses and risk that subsistence harvest needs will not be met.

- Data Gaps – Amount of information available to support subsistence management. A higher priority is given where a lack of information exists.
 - Management Application - The application of proposed project data must be clearly explained and linked to current management strategies and needs.
 - Role of Resource – Importance of a species or a population to a subsistence harvest (e.g. number of subsistence users affected, quantity of subsistence harvest), and qualitative significance (e.g. cultural value, unique seasonal role).
 - Local Concern – Level of user concern over subsistence harvests (e.g. allocation, competing uses, changes in fish size).
2. Technical-Scientific Merit- Technical quality of the study design must meet accepted standards for information collection, compilation, analysis, and reporting. Studies must have clear objectives, appropriate sampling design, correct analytical procedures, and specified progress and final reports.
 3. Investigator Ability and Resources- Investigators must show they are capable of successfully completing the proposed study by providing information on the ability (training, education, and experience) and resources (technical and administrative) they possess to conduct the work. Applicants having received funding in the past will be evaluated and ranked on their past performance, including fulfillment of meeting deliverable deadlines as outlined in Section VI. Award Administration Information under “Reporting”.
 4. Partnership-Capacity Building- Studies must include appropriate partners and contribute to building capacities of rural organizations, local communities, and residents to participate in fisheries resource management. Investigators must have completed appropriate consultation about their study with local villages and communities in the area where the study is to be conducted. Investigators are encouraged to include letters from communities in demonstration of their support. For the purposes of the Monitoring Program, capacity building is defined as increasing the ability of Alaska Native, rural and non-profit organizations to participate meaningfully in Federal subsistence fisheries management and research. Below, a graphic illustrates capacity building as measured by levels of community and organization involvement in Monitoring Program projects. Given the ongoing expectations of capacity building within the Monitoring Program, investigators are expected to develop partnerships commensurate with step 4, Developing Partnerships, as a minimum starting point to be considered eligible for funding in 2007.

Capacity Building as Measured by Levels of Community and Regional Involvement in FRMP Projects

8 Community Control	Projects are locally derived, administered and managed, full responsibility for project management is delegated to or assumed by the community and regional organization
7 Partnerships	Partnership of equals between State and Federal agencies and local users; joint decision making institutionalized
6 Collaboration	Community and regional organizations are involved in policy and decision making about project objectives
5 Cooperation	Use of local knowledge and local research assistants; some research/assessment activities are contracted to local groups and regional organizations
4 Developing Partnerships	Partnerships in project development may start; common objectives sought
3 Communication	Two-way communication begins; research plans begin to include and reflect local concerns
2 Consultation	Communities and regional organizations are consulted on projects; feedback from research findings go to the community
1 Informing	Communities and regional organizations are informed about projects; communication is one way



**Community
Involvement**

(Adapted from Berkes, et al. 1991. Co-Management: The Evolution of the Theory and Practice of Joint Administration of Living Resources. TASO Research Report, Second Series, No. 1. Hamilton, Ontario McMaster University, pg. 36).

Review and Selection Process

Proposals will be reviewed and evaluated by Fisheries Information Services Division staff and the Technical Review Committee. This committee is comprised of representatives from each of five Federal agencies involved with subsistence management, and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Their function is to provide evaluation, technical oversight, and strategic direction to the Monitoring Program. After the Technical Review Committee has reviewed proposals, investigation plans will be requested from applicants whose proposals are recommended for further consideration. Investigation plans will then be reviewed and evaluated by Fisheries Information Services Division staff and the Technical Review Committee. Based on the above criteria, recommendations will be made for each investigation plan. All investigation plans will be combined into the draft 2007 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Plan, which will be distributed for review and comment to Regional Advisory Councils, other organizations, agencies, and the general public during September-October 2006. Subsequently, the Federal Subsistence Board reviews and approves the 2007 Monitoring Plan. Once the Board approves the Monitoring Plan, successful investigators will be notified in writing.

VI. Award Administration Information

Award Notice

All applicants will receive written notification of successful project investigation plans following the selection process. The signing of all parties on a cooperative agreement or contract authorizes the award. After the applicant has signed, the document must be forwarded to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for signatures from the Assistant Regional Director, Office of Subsistence Management and the Agreement Specialist/Contracting Officer.

Parties selected to receive a cooperative agreement will be required to complete additional Federal forms before the award of the cooperative agreement. The forms are as follows: Standard Form 424 "Application for Federal Assistance," SF424A "Budget Information – Non Construction Programs," SF424B "Assurance – Non Construction Programs," and DI-2010 "Certifications."

After the applicant has signed, the document must be forwarded to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for signatures from the Assistant Regional Director, Office of Subsistence Management and the Federal Assistance Specialist/Contracting Officer.

Awardees receiving a cooperative agreement shall comply with the governing aspects of 43 CFR 12, which integrate the applicable Uniform Administrative Requirements and Cost Principles from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circulars. These may be viewed by visiting <http://www.doi.gov/pam>, scrolling down to "Financial Assistance", clicking Virtual Library, and selecting from the menu links page.

Awardees receiving a contract will follow the specifically tailored Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) clauses and provisions attached to their contract. Upon receipt of a contract award, any clauses included by reference may be read at <http://www.arnet.gov> by clicking on the "Federal Acquisition Regulation" link.

Reporting

Up to six types of reports are required for Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program projects: performance, annual, final, significant developments reports, financial status reports, and sub-contract procurement reports. The report guidelines can be found at <http://alaska.fws.gov/asm/fisindex.cfm>, under “Reporting Requirements.”

Peer review of draft annual and final reports is strongly encouraged and should be built into the schedule prior to submission of reports to the Fisheries Information Services Division.

Successful applicants must be committed to the timely submission of all required reports. Delinquency or non-submission of any of the reports cited above which are applicable to your award may result in: non-payment of invoices, suspension of award(s), or termination. In addition, since past performance is a ranking factor for proposals and investigation plans, failure to submit reports or delinquent submittal of reports will adversely affect funding requests to the Monitoring Program.

VII. Agency Contact

For additional information please contact Kathy Orzechowski, Fisheries Information Services Division, Office of Subsistence Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 3601 C Street, Suite 1030, Anchorage, Alaska 99503, 907-786-3645, fax 907-786-3612, fisheries_resource_monitoring@fws.gov.

VIII. Other Information

The applicant is responsible for obtaining all Federal, State and local governmental permits and approvals for projects or activities to be funded under this announcement. Project approval may be suspended if applicable permits are not in place prior to award.